

and savings strategies aimed at helping them build assets for the future.

For these reasons, I have joined Senator SHERROD BROWN in introducing the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Act of 2011, which is focused on expanding the original successes of the VITA program and ensuring the program is brought to a national scale. I urge all my colleagues to join me in this bill, which saves the Federal Government money, pumps money into our communities and gives a fair deal to our working families.

JOHN F. MARTINEZ TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to rise in commendation of John F. Martinez, who has served his country with great honor and dignity during WWII.

Mr. Martinez was born in San Luis, Colorado, in 1917. He worked as a farmer and answered his country's call, enlisting in the US Army at Fort Logan in 1942. There he was assigned to the 358th Infantry Division as squad leader.

The admirable career of Mr. Martinez included campaigns in Normandy, Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Because of his courageous service, Mr. Martinez has received ribbons for each campaign, was awarded a Bronze Star, and received a Purple Heart after being wounded in combat.

Mr. Speaker, John F. Martinez embodies the values of hard work, courage and sacrifice that make this country great. His actions and service are worthy of admiration and praise.

HONORING THE TRINITY CHOIR OF MEN AND BOYS AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2011

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to join the New Haven community in commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the Choir of Men and Boys of Trinity Church. This extraordinary group of gifted adults and children has been in continuous service since its founding and has been nationally and internationally recognized for its talent and service.

With members as young as age eight and ranging to men well into adulthood, the Trinity Choir of Men and Boys is the oldest such choir in Connecticut, one of the oldest in the United States, and one of very few that have been in continuous service since inception. In addition to providing choral music at Trinity worship services, the choir also performs at the Christmas and spring concerts as well as throughout events in the wider community. The dedication and talent of its membership have earned the choir a distinguished reputation and they have regularly appeared with other musical organizations such as the Orchestra of Old Fairfield Academy and the

members of the Choir of Christ Church in Greenwich, Connecticut, the Julliard Orchestra, the Boston Philharmonic and the American Classical Orchestra. They have appeared in venues ranging from the Green in New Haven to Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the White House. The boys of the choir have also performed in the United Kingdom and Italy. They have received well-deserved accolades throughout their history and they continue to make their hometown of New Haven, Connecticut proud.

The youngest of the group have a separate identity as the Trinity Boys Choir and their service to the community is certainly something to be recognized. Their frequent outreach activities have included benefit performances for the Children's Center, Ronald McDonald House, Sage Services, Newington Children's Hospital, the Fair Haven Parents' Ministry, the Smilow Cancer Center, and, most recently, for WFSB Channel 3's annual Joy for Kids Holiday Show at the Hartford Stage. They have sung in the Cathedrals of the British Isles and have been invited to appear at five Christmas time celebrations at the White House. Their talent is remarkable, but it is the commitment they have made to bring the joy of music to some of our most vulnerable citizens that is what makes the choir so special.

Today, with members past and present gathered as their year-long celebration comes to an end, the choir can reflect on their exceptional history and look forward to many more years of acclaimed performances. I consider it a privilege to have this opportunity to join the New Haven community in extending my heartfelt congratulations to the Trinity Men and Boys Choir as they celebrate their 125th anniversary. Under the leadership Music Director Walden Moore, Associate Music Director Andrew Kotylo, and Organ Scholar Benjamin Straley, I have no doubt that the Trinity Choir of Men and Boys will continue to bring distinctive and unique performances to our community and others across the world.

HONOR FLIGHT CHICAGO PROGRAM

HON. RANDY HULTGREN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2011

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor all the World War II veterans, but especially our distinguished guests from the Honor Flight Chicago Program. This noble program enables hundreds of Veterans from the Chicago area to come visit the memorial built to honor their great service and courage, and I have the great privilege of welcoming them to Washington DC.

We all have a special appreciation for our veterans because we know the sacrifices they made to protect us and bring peace to a world ravaged by war. These servicemen answered our nation's call during one of its greatest times of need. These brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them our deepest gratitude and thanks for protecting and ensuring our future.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorial. I am proud to submit the names of these men for all to see,

hear, recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing thanks.

Joseph Bialek, Stephen Bobic, George Bosy, Norman Breyer, Ralph Brockman, Peter Broustis, Simon Bult, Joseph Burke, Joseph Buzinski, Ingemar Carlson, John Carlson, James Carson, John Casper, George Charnas, Lehman Cheshier, William Corrigan, Raymond Craig, John DeHesus, Arthur DeLorenzo, Cyril Diskin, James Doheny, Raymond Donovan, William Doyle, John Dryja, Eileen DuPont, Willard Duvall, Irving Ellis, Robert Elmer, Robert Engdahl, Charles Ettner, Guy Franzese, Julian Friedman, William Froelke, Alfred Galuszka, Olaf Gjovik, Norman Goone, Lester Guenther, Gilbert Hancock, Robert Heinzen, Vernon Hill, Donald Hintz, Andrew Hitzelberger, Rick Jimenez, James Kinnard, Fred Klooster, Alfred Koszyk, Guenther Krieger, Walter Krulac, Andrew Kwinn, Lloyd Lage, Seymour Laurie, John Lavelle, Thomas Leo, Irving Lerner, James Letarte, Marcel Levesque, C. Russel Lockwood, Joseph Mann, John Marias, Richard Martial, Marvin McGreal, Marion Mitchell, Edward Moran, William Nicholson, John Oberholz, Louis Olmetti, David Perlman, Richard Pevitts, John Plisky, Joseph Pratl, Emil Pribula, George Renner, Arthur Reynders, William Rjeker, Robert Riplow, Frank Rock, James Rossi, Edward Ryan, Charles Sauer, Donald Schoo, Robert Shields, Edward Siessmann, Paul Sternfeld, Howard Surret, Leonard Sytsma, Anthony Thomas, Robert Tinucci, John Torhan, Eugene Tronvig, Howard Vander Meer, Robert Vehlow, Dorothy Vesely, Lawrence Wallach, Frank Washburn, Albert Wiener, Elmer Wilhelm, Robert Winscott, Theodore Woytowicz, Joseph Zajac, Richard Zidek, and Henry Westrop.

HONORING CHIEF ROBERT FINN

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor the service of an outstanding public servant in the 24th Congressional District of Texas. Police Chief Robert Finn is a hard working, family-oriented individual who has served the Southlake area selflessly throughout his personal and professional life. Chief Finn is retiring after 24 years of public service with the City of Southlake.

Chief Finn graduated from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona, with a bachelor's degree of Public Safety Administration and an Executive Masters of Business Administration. In 2001, Chief Finn also graduated from the FBI National Academy. He has been married to his wife, Monica, for eight years and has two children.

In 1987, Chief Finn began his career in public safety as a Firefighter EMT-Paramedic for the city of Southlake. In 2002, he was appointed as the Southlake Fire Chief, and in 2008 he became Chief of the Southlake Police Department.

During his tenure as a public servant, Chief Finn assisted in the completion of the beautiful Southlake Department of Public Safety headquarters. Chief Finn developed strong relationships with neighboring cities, Keller and

Colleyville, for joint cooperation in jail and dispatch services. He created and implemented a career guide to improve the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the command staff and supervisors in a successful effort to secure a safer community.

Chief Finn has received numerous awards and recognitions throughout his career. In 1993, Chief Finn was recognized as Southlake Firefighter of the Year, and in 1995 he received the Southlake DPS Director's Award for Excellence. As a member of the community, Chief Finn's leadership has been recognized by the Southlake Rotary Club as 2007 Rotarian of Year and Southlake Chamber of Commerce as 2008 Southlake Citizen of the Year.

Chief Finn has also served as a leader in many of the Southlake community organizations. He was the President of the Texas Association of Law Enforcement Planners from 2000–2001, Peer Assessor for the Commission of Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies from 2000–2005, FBI National Academy Alumni Association member since 2001, Peer Assessor and Team Leader of the Center for Public Safety Excellence since 2006, Rotarian since 2004 and President from 2006–2007, Advisory Board Member for Southlake Art in the Square since 2008, Board of Trustee Member of Metroport Meals on Wheels since 2010, and Advisory Board Member of Kids Matter International since 2011.

On behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Chief Finn for his 24 years of public service to the City of Southlake.

HONORING STACIE AND KEN PODOS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Congregation Shaaray Israel of Monroe, NY, will honor Stacie and Ken Podos at their Journal Dinner Dance on June 12, 2011 for their long-time dedication to the congregation. Stacie and Ken are deeply involved in the synagogue and have held various leadership positions within the congregation.

Ken, a sales representative for J.K.J. Sales, Inc., currently serves as Chairman of Shaaray Israel's Board, and until recently was President of the congregation. Before his term as President, Ken began as financial secretary at Shaaray Israel, eventually moving on to serve as third, second and first Vice President. In addition to his work at the congregation, Ken is active on the Jewish Federation of Rockland's Board of Trustees.

Stacie, like her husband, is a leader in the congregation. She currently serves as chairperson of Shaaray Israel's Dedication Committee and is the incoming Vice-President of the Sisterhood. In addition to her work within the congregation, Stacie was heavily involved in the construction and design of the synagogue's new building. Trained at the Fashion Institute of Technology, Stacie is an interior designer by trade and helped decide on the materials and look of the synagogue.

Ken's and Stacie's commitment to the Jewish community extends beyond their congregation. They are actively involved in the Jewish

Community Center of Long Beach Island, and serve on various national Jewish organizations. Ken and Stacie have been honored with the Tree of Life Award from Israel Bonds and serve as Solidarity Founders and Keepers of the Gate for Hadassah. Stacie, who has been a member of Hadassah for 24 years, also holds a position on the organization's national board.

Ken and Stacie are proud parents of Jordan, Kimberly, and Jared and are expecting their first grandchild this September. They have made outstanding contributions to their community through their involvement and dedication to Jewish issues, and I congratulate them on this honor they so richly deserve.

WILLIAM R. THURSTON TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to businessman, community philanthropist, and courageous WWII and Korean War hero, William R. Thurston.

While studying for a geology degree at Harvard University, Mr. Thurston trained to fly torpedo bombers for the Navy after Pearl Harbor. He was awarded the Air Medal 11 times and the Distinguished Flying Cross three times for his bravery while flying missions in the Pacific and over Japan.

Mr. Thurston put his geology degree to use, working for Sun Oil Co. between WWII and the Korean War, and for an independent oilman in Denver after the Korean War.

Mr. Thurston moved to Durango in 1977 with his wife Beatrice, where he became involved in the local arts scene and was an avid supporter of community theater. Lovers of live-music, the Thurstons founded Four corners Opera in 1980, and also became sponsors of Music in the Mountains, organizers for the Raise the Roof concert series, and participants in many other community endeavors.

Mr. Thurston's community involvement also included efforts to preserve and protect the rich history of the Four Corners area, and educate others about the region and its people. He supported the founding of the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in 1983, with the hope of sharing his great enthusiasm for the area's remarkable past, precious artifacts, and cultural significance with others.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to the inspiring life of William R. Thurston. Colorado was fortunate to benefit from his tremendous spirit and lifetime of community service.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF ALPHONSE "AL" G. CONDON, JR.

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the life of Alphonse "Al" G. Condon, Jr.

The people of Northwest Florida have come to associate the name Al Condon with the

terms honest, hardworking and benevolent. For 45 years, Mr. Condon practiced law with the Emmanuel, Sheppard and Condon law firm where he demonstrated these traits while serving his community. Mr. Condon, born in Pensacola, graduated from St. Michael's Catholic School and Pensacola Catholic High School. After receiving a bachelor's degree, Cum Laude, from Vanderbilt University, he joined the United States Marine Corps to serve his country. He then pursued a law degree from the University of Florida College of Law and established himself as a premier trial lawyer.

Civil litigation was not just a practice for Mr. Condon. His passion for justice transpired from the courtroom into his daily activities as well and is evident in his service as a past President of the Escambia-Santa Rosa Bar Association, member of the Board of Governors of The Florida Bar and an emeritus member of the Florida Board of Bar Examiners. Mr. Condon also served as special counsel to former Governor Bob Graham.

The impact Al Condon had on the Northwest Florida community extended far beyond his legal practice. A pivotal leader in the local community, Mr. Condon was actively involved with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Development Council of Pensacola Catholic High School, the YMCA, Pensacola Sports Association, and the City of Pensacola Recreation Board. The Catholic Church recognized Mr. Condon's lifetime service to the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee by awarding him the Medal of Honor.

Throughout his life, Al Condon exemplified the Catholic High School motto Pro Deo et Patria and United States Marine Corps motto Semper Fidelis in all he did. His legacy as a man of honor and sacrifice for his community will stand the test of time. Survived by his wife Judy of 48 years, five children, and nine grandchildren, he will forever be remembered by his family as a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the life of Al Condon, Jr. of Pensacola, Florida. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers for his entire family. He will be truly missed by all of us.

HONORING PAUL HIRSCHON

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2011

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Hirschon, the Deputy Consul General of Israel to Florida and Puerto Rico for his many years of service to the South Florida Jewish Community, which is being honored this evening by the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County.

Born in London, Mr. Hirschon spent his early life in South Africa and pursued degrees in accounting, law, and business before immigrating to Israel. Upon his move to Israel, Mr. Hirschon served in the Israel Defense Forces and worked in the Civil Service.

After a brief time back in England, Mr. Hirschon returned to Israel and spent ten years as a respected businessman in the high-tech sector, where he focused on developing lasting relationships with businesses throughout the Middle East. However, in 2004, Mr.